

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s) : Michael WHITMAN et al.  
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For : SURGICAL CUTTING AND STAPLING DEVICE  
Group Art Unit : 3721  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically  
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Signature: /Loretta E. Charles/  
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**AMENDMENT**

S I R:

Pursuant to the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and in response to the Final Office Action dated September 19, 2007, please amend the above-captioned application without prejudice as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.